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(54) Title: COSMETIC FORMULATIONS CONTAINING L-ARGININE OLIGOMERS

(57) Abstract: Oligomers of L-arginine may be used to provide prophylactic or therapeutic cosmetic or other enhancements to keratinous tissues such as skin, hair, lips and gums through vasodilation. Topical compositions preferably comprise (a) an enhancing effective amount of an oligomer having from 7 to 15 subunits, each subunit consisting of a member of the group selected from L-arginine and physiologically acceptable salts of L-arginine that enhance vasodilation through production of nitric oxide, and (b) a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable vehicle.